made on 29.12.1998 to allow exemption to the candidates hailing from Manipur to appear in the compulsory Indian Language paper.

(b) State Government of Manipur informed that Manipuri is not the mother tongue of a large percentage of the population of the State and requested for continuation of exemption. Government of India considered the request of the State Government of Manipur and allowed the candidates hailing from Manipur to exempt from appearing in compulsory Indian Language paper *w.e.f.* Civil Services Examination, 1999. The candidates hailing from Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim are also exempted from appearing in the compulsory Indian Languages papers and the present exemption will be reviewed after the Rules for the Civil Services Examination, 2003 are finalized.

Representation of minorities in the selection committees

874. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions were issued several years back to include a representative of minorities in the selection committees/boards of each Government organization;

(b) whether Government are aware that in most of the Government organizations these instructions are not being followed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for implementation thereof; and

(d) if not, the organizations in which the instructions are being followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (d) Instructions were issued on 16th August, 1990 to provide that wherever a Selection Committee/Board exists or has to be constituted for making recruitment to ten or more vacancies in Group "C' or Group "D' posts/services, it shall be mandatory to have one member belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and one member belonging to minority community in the Committee/Board. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare) has been designated as the nodal Ministry for evolving appropriate guidelines including the time frame and format for reporting compliance of these instruction. The data in this regard is being maintained by the said Ministry. The Ministry is collecting information on half-yearly basis.

(b) and (c) No specific instance of deviation from the prescribed instructions have been brought to the notice.